The Lions' Pride

Saint Leo University Friday October 2, 2015 Volume LVIII No. 6 Since 1965

Volunteering in Faith: Grotto Restoration Project

By Nicholas Santos
Managing Editor

The Saint Leo Abbey Grotto is a place for prayer, the expression of faith, and relaxation. Under nature's comforting warmth, the Grotto's intricate shrines, brilliant statues, calming trails, and overall atmosphere invite both members of the Saint Leo community and strangers alike to worship in a beautiful, outdoor environment. However, the Grotto, when left unchecked, just might find itself overwhelmed by the nature surrounding it. This has happened.

Imagine the Grotto now overtaken by nature – how does it look? Are statues covered in dirt, moss, and grime? Have streams stopped flowing? Are walkways completely concealed by dead leaves? Does an abundance of spiders and their massive webs make some, including yourself, afraid to visit the Grotto after sunset? Unfortunately, all of these aptly describe the Grotto in its current state; and each of them just might be a sign that the Grotto may not be as important to people as it used to be.

All of this, however, is currently being changed. Enter: the Saint Leo University Ministry. In a restoration effort headed by Ministry members and volunteers both on and off campus, a single goal has been made: to restore the Abbey Grotto back to its former glory, encouraging volunteers to work together and understand the value of community. This group of dedicated volunteers took the first step to reaching this goal on Sept. 19 – a step which resulted in a successful cleaning marathon that lasted from 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM.

"I have more reasons than one for why I wanted to help clean the Grotto. The most important reason is that I wanted to do something for Jesus… having a nice environment and setting can really help you hear what God is trying to say. I would definitely volunteer again," said Ashley Brown, Senior, who volunteered.

The idea to clean up the Grotto had originally started as a simple observation made by a simply faithful individual. Jahiedy Vinas, Senior and recently-appointed Ministry Mentor, is currently in charge of community service performed by the Ministry. Realizing the importance of the Grotto in its history – as well as the potential importance of a restored Grotto – Vinas made it her priority to get permission to go through with the project.

"I saw it as an opportunity for the students to come together; I saw it as an opportunity for us to work with the monks and the nuns – to create that identity of community and responsible stewardship," said Vinas. "The Grotto is our responsibility; it's a place that we definitely have to take care of… I want to make sure it visually represents who we are. Saint Leo's a beautiful University; the Grotto should be just as beautiful as well."

The project, which in its first day was an immense success, has sparked inspiration among the volunteers who participated. It is expected to continue once every three to four Saturdays as a result. With each session, pathways are expected to be cleared out, statues are expected to be repainted, and spider webs are expected to be removed, among many other renovations.

"At first glance, it didn't seem like a lot of work, but when we really started getting into it, we really started to care about that place. We realized there was so much we had to do," said Vinas. "I think that having these students go out there and wash statues, care for the grounds, pull out weeds – get dirty – y'know, they were happy to get dirty. It's not like you're just cleaning someone's house; you're taking care of a place that's meant for prayer."

Photo courtesy of Joshua Barthlolomew

The project is expected to continue every three or four saturdays; stunning results are already present

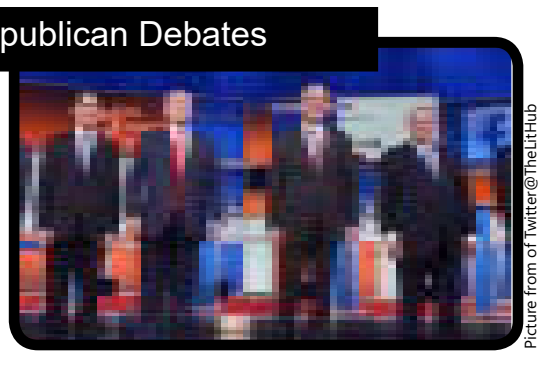
Regardless of the progress made so far, however, the project is not expected to be finished anytime soon; a lot of work still needs to be done. According to Br. Clement Rees, OSB, who also volunteered, the committed efforts of the volunteers made all the difference in the first day's success. They proved to him without hesitation the dedication and leadership skills they possessed. Inspired by the hard work the volunteers demonstrated, Brother Clement is determined to continue to assist in the restoration project until its completion.

"My experience working with the students was very enlivening. They came to the job on short notice but came with a willingness to do a good service…We are very short handed here at the Abbey and so it was wonderful to have the skills and energy the students brought to the task. The grotto is in much better condition now but still a long way from tip top," said Brother Clement.

In addition to the Grotto restoration project, the University Ministry plans on hosting even more volunteer opportunities in the future, such as charities, clothing drives, and food drives. If you would like to participate in these projects, the Grotto's restoration project, or have other volunteer work ideas, please contact Jahiedy Vinas at jahiedy.vinas@email.saintleo.edu.

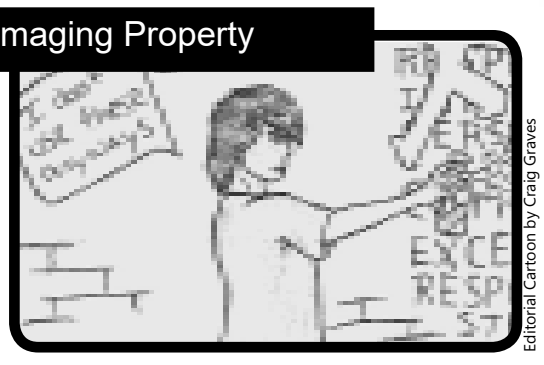
CHECK US OUT ONLINE!

Republican Debates



Picture from of Twitter@TheLitHub

Damaging Property



Editorial Cartoon by Craig Graves

On Joseph and Magic

Photo Courtesy of University Communications

Campus News

Dramaturgy Professor Inspires Students

By Brian Cerosky
Contributing Writer

"I really, passionately believe that theater can change the world."

These are the words of Saint Leo University's new dramaturgy professor, Dr. Alicia Corts, as she explains why she enjoys theater so much and also why she wants to teach the subject.

Corts has been involved in theater for a long time, attending many universities around the country including ones in Illinois, Minnesota, and Georgia, earning herself various degrees in teaching and conducting drama as well as theater. She is one of the founding members of an all-women's theater in the southeast, which has produced a show bound for Broadway called "Yes No Maybe" on top of also being an actor and director of many plays throughout her life.

Her skills extend to the classroom as well, where her experience in theater allows for a different kind of classroom environment.

"We're all one big family," said Chris Scribner, one of Corts' students taking "Living the Theater."

"The class just breaks down barriers, you just have to show up and be yourself," said Scribner.

Corts said that she enjoys Saint Leo and the students who attend the University. She praises the students' "willingness to try" and that they make her want to be a better teacher.

"If I'm having fun, then the students are having fun," said Corts.

She also states that all the new professors at the University are bonding together to "become a family and a community." She has made good friends with professors in the English department and hopes to fit in with the rest of the faculty.

Corts was also very optimistic about the academic year and describes any difficulties adjusting to life at Saint Leo as "positive challenges" and is looking forward to the opening of a new theater in Jan. This brand new space will be a task to mold her classes into, but she is willing to do what it takes for her classes to be as fun and educational as possible.

During the week of Halloween from Oct. 30th to Nov. 1st, Corts will also be releasing her first fall play called "Blithe Spirit" by Noel Coward. It is a comedy about a married author who somehow conjures up his first wife from the grave who passed away in an accident. The two women in the house end up not getting along and drive the author crazy in the process. It will be performed outside from Oct. 30th to Nov. 1st. More details about the play will surface most likely in Oct. such as admission cost and exact location.

Photo Courtesy of Rikki-Ann Hussey

Dr. Alicia Corts is excited to become a part of the Saint Leo family and community.

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Student Activites Building Rm 106

Campus News

Greek Life Creates Networks and Leadership

By Kristen Collins
Contributing Writer

Parties and procrastination may be a center-piece for the college life, but to be able to build a future to aspire to in this crucial time also needs to be taken into account. Building resumes do not just come from jobs outside of school or school internships. One of the best ways to start off future careers can be from one of the most popular activities of campus life: joining a club, sorority, or fraternity. With Greek Life recruiting, it can be a step forward in a world of employers trying to find college students with skills like networking and leadership.

Saint Leo University has a variety of different sororities and fraternities to join, even with it being a smaller campus. There are several cultural organizations, two historically African-American fraternities, one historically African-American sorority, one multi-cultural sorority, one multi-cultural fraternity, and the fraternities/sororities that are under the National Interfraternity/Panhellenic Council. The campus itself has two local fraternities and one local sorority, and overall, Saint Leo has six sororities and five fraternities officially integrated in the university. The sororities are Alpha Sigma Tau, Gamma Upsilon, Sigma Gamma Rho, Sigma Lambda Gamma, Sigma Sigma Sigma, and Theta Phi Alpha. The fraternities are Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Kappa Theta, Sigma Lambda, and Tau Kappa Epsilon.

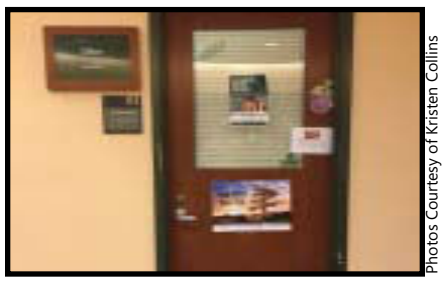
Greek Life has a long-standing history, some even forming back in the 1800-1900s. Their purpose began in humble roots of having a family away from family when students went off to college and could not make their way back home of the holidays. Creations of these brother and sisterhoods is now a way for students to create lasting relationships, where common grounds and experiences are established. Each of the sororities and fraternities have their own rituals and rites of passage, secret and sacred to those who are within the Greek family. By becoming a part of these families, opportunities are opened for skills and looking for jobs and progressing career choices.

Campus events and Greek Life go hand-in-hand with one another, with each Greek Life organization taking on fundraising and other activities across campus and outside of campus. Theta Phi Alpha does events such as Kisses for the Troops, Habitat for Humanity, and Saint Jude Up till Dawn. Tri Sigma holds conferences and community events like 'I Am That Girl' and MediKin Teaching Dolls (educating children about medical practices). Gamma Epsilon contributes to the fantasy vacation, helping give children with deathly illnesses a joyful experience.

"I think having officer positions bring in leadership skills, and there's also a lot of options for them to learn about their people and leadership styles through workshops and the offices of Greek Life," said Thomas Martin, assistant director of Greek Life and Community Engagement

Opportunities and benefits of joining these fraternities and sororities range from gaining leadership skills by going to workshops and becoming an officer of Greek Life, and having the ability to travel across the nation as consultants. In the business and marketing world, these skills allow students to have a boost in their experience before even leaving college to pursue careers. Those who are able to get officer positions, going into student affairs, and starting off directing chapters, have the best chances of networking in their futures. By having all of these additional opportunities, impressing future employers with outstanding resumes will be a simple task.

The Student Activities Building houses the Greek Life organizations, located next to Kirk Hall and the Student Community Center.



Photos Courtesy of Kristen Collins

If anyone has questions or is interested in Greek Life, ask Thomas Martin in the Student Activities Building in Room 113.

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For More Information Contact: valerie.kasper@saintleo.edu / St. Ed's 341

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- ENG 227 Basic Journalistic Writing
- ENG 441 Advanced Journalism
- ENG 428 Internship OR
  ENG 318 Pre-internship

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- ENG 332 Creative Non-fiction
- ENG 450 Desktop Publishing and Design
- ENG 430 The Independent Writer
- COM 333 Web Design and Information Resources
- ART 226 Beginning Photography

Science

Volcanic Discoveries of the Super Variety

By Kristen Collins
Contributing Writer

A wall of fire has just been discovered on the eastern side of Australia, making this fiery and blazing land one of the world's longest chain of volcanoes. Approximately 1,243 miles long, this chain spans from northern Hillsborough all the way to the southern island of Tasmania. With such a large discovery of volcanic activity, it is safe to say there will be a possibility of more super volcanoes in the making. With this new discovery, Australia has gotten a little deadlier; its animals are no longer the only things to be worrying about.

Before this discovery, scientists had an understanding that there were four separate volcanic structures across eastern Australia. There were some speculations on where they were located but with lava fields and leucitite (a dark grayish black igneous rock specific to being associated with volcanic minerals), a good portion of the locations were already previously discovered. Through looking at old and new data collected, scientists researching the Australian volcanoes have finally found that these seemingly separate volcanic sites have actually been a place in which the sites are inter-connected.

As of now, the region is classified as a super-chain of volcanoes since the structure of the volcanic activity are from the same vein of the mantle plum. The mantle plum is a source of magma on the boundaries of tectonic plates, seeping through the cracks of the Earth. It has been donned the name of the Cosgrove, supposedly formed between 9 million and 33 million years ago.

While the formation is considered active, the largeness of it does give a varying degree of activity, with some sections extremely susceptible to volcanic eruptions while others are barely even a threat. The multitude of spots on the super-chain are measured by the lithosphere (the outermost shell

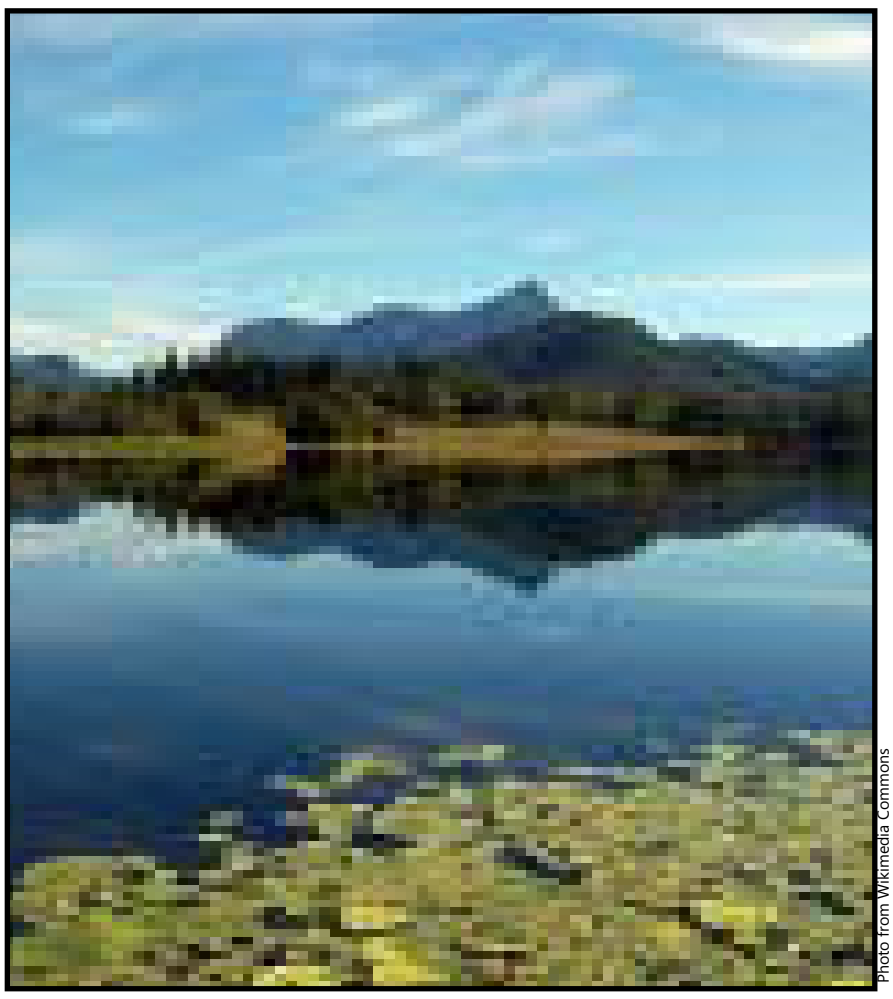


Photo from Wikimedia Commons

While the Australian landscape is beautiful and peaceful, it holds the secret of once being a lava-spewing volcano.

Photo from usgs.gov

Knowing where you fall in volcanic eruption zones can help you avoid disaster. Have safety precautions in place to maximize your survival in these possible global calamities.

Science

Photo from Wikimedia Commons

The lava slowly creeps forward, engulfing everything in its fiery path and ranging from temperatures of 700 to 1,200 degrees Celsius.

Photo from Wikimedia Commons

The Sidney Opera House, as well as many of the other recognizable Australian landmarks, may not be able to survive through an eruption from these newly discovered supervolcanoes.

of the Earth) on the Australian tectonic plate. The parts that are extremely susceptible to actually erupt or produce magma at the surface are the thin sections of the lithosphere. In contrast, the safest parts of the lithosphere would be the thickest parts, where the mantle plume would be too deep to penetrate through the crust.

Super-chains, or volcanic belts as they are also called, usually have formations resembling the Hawaiian Islands. The chain takes a vein from the mantle plum, between the crevices of a tectonic plate, and has a long history with living out their life, becoming extinct, and another volcano coming up from the vein. The discovery of the super-chain in Australia is a big deal since it has opened up new volcanic activity to be studied more closely. With these discoveries comes the need to analyze whether the sites are active or not, and predicting eruption times.

From an apocalyptic or worst-case-scenario standpoint of the super-volcanoes, a world of ash, fire, earthquakes, and tectonic shifts of epic proportions could occur. By definition from the U.S. Geological Survey government website, super-volcanoes are classified by the Volcano Explosively Index (VEI) as having a magnitude 8 eruption where the explosion spans greater than 1,000 cubic kilometers. Some examples of the most destructive super-volcanoes are: The Yellowstone Caldera in Wyoming, The Long Valley Caldera in California, Valles Caldera in New Mexico, Lake Toba in Indonesia, and Taupo Caldera in New Zealand.

The effects of these ever erupting can be catastrophic, devastating the planet on a global level depending on the severity of the volcanic explosion. An eruption is speculated to disrupt the atmosphere of the Earth for many years and the atmosphere would be clouded with dust and chemicals. With so many extra particles in the atmosphere, the Sun would be screened out, drastically changing the weather patterns. Such a change would bring Earth to a long-lasting winter, where plant and animal life would rapidly die out and become extinct.

In the past, there have been studies on the effects of super-volcanoes and what happens if one erupts. One eruption, dating back 74,000 years ago, from the super-volcano dubbed Toba, plummeted the temperatures of the Earth 21 degrees. There was also an estimate by Michael Rampino, a biologist and geologist of New York University, where three-quarters of the Earth's plant life perished in the aftermath of the explosion in the Northern Hemisphere.

For humans in both Rampino's study and the estimated survival rate of another volcanic eruption the risk of partial extinction is a possibility. Toba pushed humanity to the edge and a few thousand possibly survived. If one like Yellowstone were to erupt, the states of Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana would be an immediate death zone from just the lava, the outer states would get the first wave of ash, and the rest of the states would get the second wave of ash. By that point, the world would slowly but surely reflect the same events played out in the eruption of Toba.

New volcanoes and volcanic chains being discovered puts another tally on the chart of predictions of global annihilation. While not every volcano is catastrophic and some others have stopped producing lava millions of years ago, others are ticking time bombs just waiting to erupt in a speculator and destructive manner. Humans are literally sitting ducks for a multitude of life-ending events and Australia just upped the ante.

Photo from Wikimedia Commons

As volcanoes erupt, they send thousands of pounds of ash and soot into the atmosphere, increasing the rate at which global warming occurs and threatening the stability of the environment as the dark cloud blots out the sun.

Arts & Entertainment

When the FBI Got Too Cozy with Crime

By Annie Hays
Layout and Arts Editor

Johnny Depp has an impressive acting career under his belt with such varied roles as Edward Scissorhands, Capt. Jack Sparrow, and Hunter S Thompson. Most people easily recognize him from these and other light-hearted roles, so the thought of Depp as the ruthless crime lord James "Whitey" Bulger is hard to wrap one's head around. However, Depp is flawless in "Black Mass," directed by Scott Cooper.

This movie follows the life of Whitey Bulger; one of Boston's most ruthless crime lords in the 1970's and 80's. Bulger was a "small-time" criminal in the 1970's, but FBI agent John Connelly (Joel Edgerton), who grew up in South Boston (Southie) with Bulger, decided to help his childhood friend by making him an informant. With Bulger's informant status, he is granted immunity for his crimes as long as he continues to give the FBI solid leads on criminals.

When the movie begins, Bulger's brother, Billy (Benedict Cumberbatch), has just become a Massachusetts senator, his mother (Mary Klug) and son (Luke Ryan) are dear to him, and Whitey seems to have some redeeming qualities. He loves to see his son whenever he comes home, and he lets his mother beat him at cards.

As the movie progresses, Bulger's son dies at a very young age, his wife (Dakota Johnson) leaves him, and a few years later his mother dies as well. The more people Bulger loses, the more ruthless she becomes.

Similarly, the more Connelly works with Bulger, the more the lines between FBI agent and criminal blur. Connelly does everything in his power to cover for Bulger, and this leads to serious problems for him when a new agent, Fred Wyshak (Corey Stoll), comes to work at the office.

The spot-on Boston accents from the entire cast are a major part of what makes the movie feel real. It is amusing to hear Cumberbatch give a perfect Boston accent, especially for anyone who watches him play Sherlock Holmes on the BBC series.

While the movie is fantastic, it is not for squeamish people or people who do not like the "F" word. There are several scenes where people are brutally murdered, and not much is left to the imagination. Also, in keeping with the gangster jargon, the "F" word is used many times in almost every scene.

Depp always stands out in each scene as Bulger with his pale, bald head contrasted with his trusty black leather jacket. With his tinted sunglasses and impassable stare, it is hard to know what he is thinking, but when he removes the glasses and stares at the camera with piecing blue eyes, a chill runs down viewers' spines.

Photo From twitter@BlackMassMovie

FBI Agent John Connelly (right) and Whitey Bulger (left) strike an unholy alliance that lasts about ten years.

There is little in the way of a soundtrack in the movie, but one scene in a 1980's Miami nightclub with 80's dance music uses the strobe lights and upbeat music to its advantage. The bawdy club scene flashes back and forth between the characters dancing, Bulger eyeing the room with an impenetrable gaze, and a man being shot and stuffed in his trunk in the parking lot.

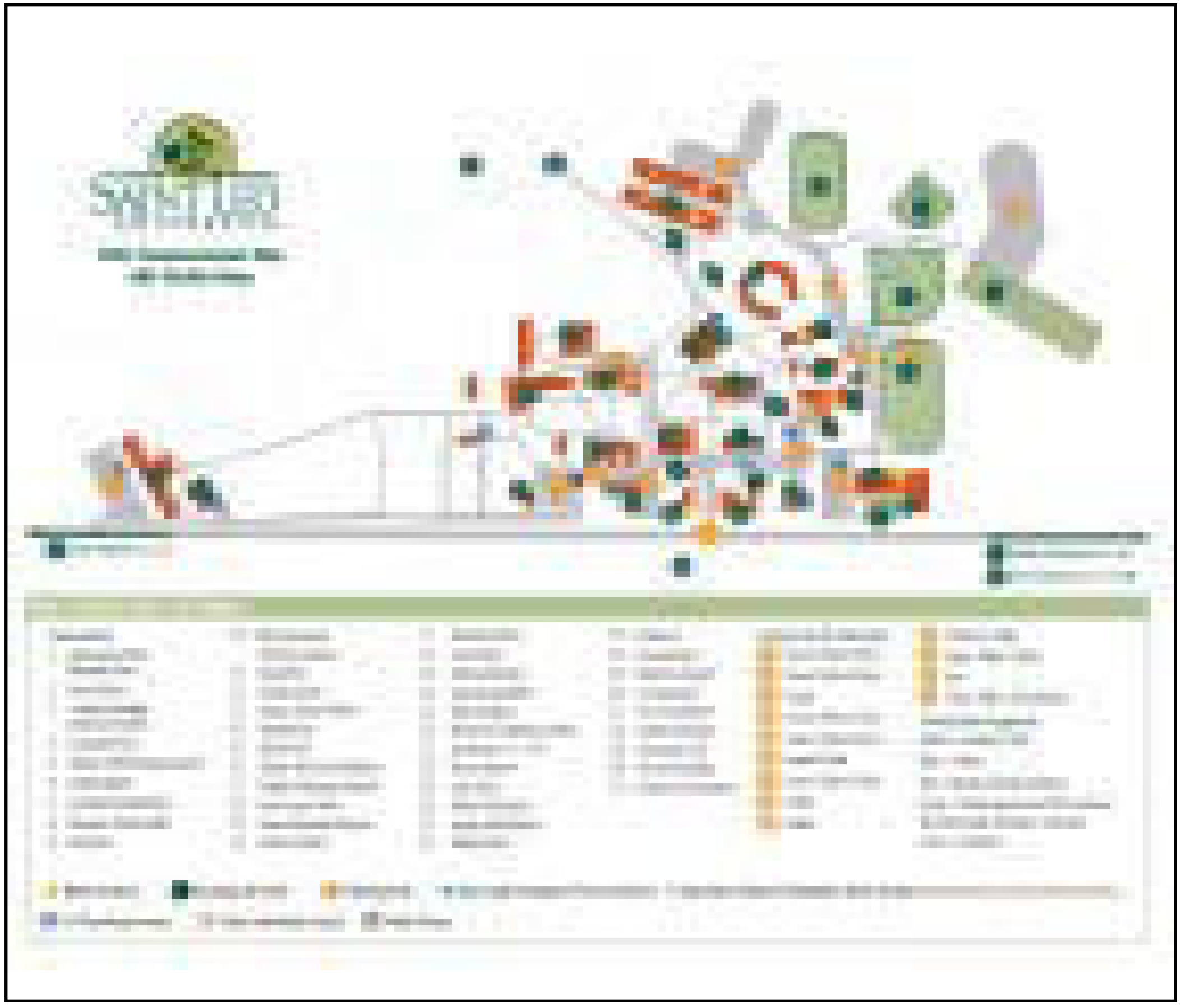
"Black Mass" is a great gangster movie that not only shocks audiences with its brutality and coldness, but accurately tells the story of James "Whitey" Bulger. Although Bulger and his associates are utterly despicable characters, the audience still cares about the movie because it is hard to believe all of this was allowed to happen under the gaze of the FBI. Moviegoers who do not like a lot of blood or profanity should stay away from this one, but due to the outstanding acting and visuals I give this a 5/5.

The Lions' Pride, Friday, October 2, 2015

Campus News

Can you light the way? Lions' Pride Contest

Want a chance to win $10 in Lions' Lair money? All you have to know is where the blue emergency lights are on campus. You walk by them, you talk about them, but are you really prepared to press one of the blue emergency buttons that dot the campus? Step number one to becoming prepared is knowing where these much-talked-about buttons are located. Take the above blank campus map with you around campus, and place an "X" on each of the emergency light locations. There are 27 in total across main campus. Put you name and contact information on the top of the newspaper and drop off your entry between the hours of 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on Friday, October 9 to the Newspaper Office, SAB 106. **One entry per person. First five correct entries will receive $10 of Monarch Money. Winners' names will be run in the next issue. Winners have one week to pick up there prize. Information for pick-up location will be included in winner announcements.**



Sports

NBA 2K16: More Than a Roster Update

By Matt Vandenburgh
Sports Editor

On Sept. 29, 2K Sports released their annual basketball game, "NBA 2K16." Once again, fans could control the most recent versions of their favorite teams, from playing as Lebron James on the court, to trading for Carmelo Anthony as the General Manager of a team. While 2K kept the basics of the game the same from last year, it is vastly improved in the complexity of game modes.

Visually, the game is fantastic. The game makes actual NBA stars come to life in the game. From LeBron James' determined face, to James Harden's unmistakable beard, everything looks vibrant and fully formed. The court looks remarkable as well. The floor boards shine with a virtual wax, and the lighting gives the feel of being at an actual NBA game.

Gameplay stays the same, and for good reason. Other than a couple of reaction hiccups, the game is smooth to control and fun to step into. The learning curve can be prohibitive, as there are many things to learn to have a full grasp on the controls, but the exhibition mode is great practice before competing online.

In terms of variety, there are many different options to choose from in the game. There is My Career mode, which allows players to create a character and take him on a journey through his NBA career. My GM mode makes players the General Manager of an NBA franchise and gives them all the choices that come with that position. My Team mode gives players virtual collecting cards, allowing them to make up a team from those cards and compete against other people from around the world. The 2K Pro-Am is new. This takes the My Career mode created player and places him onto a full, 5 player team online, either with strangers or friends, and lets them compete for dominance.

My Career mode starts off rather disappointingly as a player first must slog through a story from famed director Spike Lee. Titled "Livin' Da Dream," the created player starts out as a high school senior, works through college recruitment, the NBA Draft and the player's rookie season. It is unfortunate that during this story mode players cannot makes choices about what the character does. The character makes his choices and the player has to live with the consequences, whether the player like it or not. For example, the in game character decides whether or not to finish college before going to the NBA, and the player has no influence on this decision.

Once "Livin' Da Dream" concludes, however, players can take full control of their creation, from signing with a new team, to choosing how to spend off days. This is the most in depth My Career mode ever, which should make players reluctant to bypass any day via simulation. Rather, it is best to play through each day to tackle all the variables and challenges manually.

My GM mode is still highly entertaining. Taking the depth of last year's iteration, 2K took it a step further, fully fleshing out what had already been a very elaborate game mode. It keeps the tasks set to the general manger by the team's owner, and still forces the players to balance a team's chemistry and talent. The opposing general managers still offer unreasonable, one-sided trades, which is frustrating and something 2K needs to address. Scouting feels improved, as there is a more realistic grasp on a player's potential, without seeming to spoil too much. Overall, 2K did not need to mess with this mode much, and so it is still as fun as ever.

With My Team mode, players can spend in game currency that can be used to purchase better cards. This in game currency can be acquired one of two ways. First, players can compete, earning coins for different feats during the games. Second, players can perform what are known as "micro transactions," spending real world money for the in game currency. This makes for an unbalanced experience for those that either don't want to, or can't afford the micro transactions. Players seem to be ranked based upon wins, and so those that do not play often, but spend money on high level cards, will have a huge advantage.

Also, as with any online game, opponents can quit at any time, and often do. While this gives the remaining player a win, it still steals from the fun of competition.

Overall, NBA 2K16 is exactly as advertised: an improvement over last year. While "Livin' Da Dream" could have been much better, it is not enough to discourage players from picking up where they left off the season before. This game gets 4 stars out of 5.

If opponents don't quit, 2K Pro-Am can be an exciting new online mode.

Photos From twitter@NBA2K

Above: The results of the full body scans are gorgeous, giving, resulting in the most accurate portrayal of a real person in a sports game yet.

Scores This Week

M Cross Country

9/25: 1st of 9 teams Florida Southern Moccasin Invitational @ Lakeland, Fla.

W Cross Country

9/25: 2nd of 9 teams Florida Southern Moccasin Invitational @ Lakeland, Fla.

M Golf

9/21: 5th of 16 teams- Rounds 1-2

9/22: T-3rd of 16 teams- Round 3 Columbus State Cougar Invitational @ Columbus, Ga.

W Golf

9/26: 1st of 14 - Round 1

9/27: 1st of 14 - Round 2 Lander University Invitational @ Hilton Head, S.C.

M Soccer

9/23: L 3-2 OT @ Fla Tech

9/26: Cancelled (lightning) Vs. Barry U

W Soccer

9/23: L 1-0 Vs Fla. Tech

9/26: L 2-1 OT @ #12 Barry U

W Volleyball

9/25: L 3-2 @ Barry U

9/26: L 3-1 @ Palm Beach Atl.